

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A privacy protection method for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:
 - an identifier guard step of bringing an proper identifier of a radio identifier transmitter affixed to an article purchased and thereby possessed by a personal user into an identifier guard state not readable by a stranger according to the intention of said personal user;
 - an identifier generation step of generating an identifier for disturbing a privacy invader with a privacy protection identifier transmitter possessed by said personal user;
 - a transmission step of transmitting said identifier generated through said identifier generation step from said privacy protection identifier transmitter when receiving an identifier transmission request; and
 - a reading step of rendering the identifier of said radio identifier transmitter in the identifier guard state readable according to the intension of the personal user, whereinsaid identifier generation step includes a variable type identifier generation step capable of generating an identifier different from a precedently transmitted identifier.

2. (Original): A privacy protection method for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier of a radio identifier transmitter affixed to an article

purchased and thereby possessed by a personal user and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

an identifier generation step of generating an identifier for disturbing a privacy invader with a privacy protection identifier transmitter possessed by said personal user; and

a transmission step of transmitting said identifier generated through said identifier generation step from said privacy protection identifier transmitter when receiving an identifier transmission request, wherein

said identifier generation step includes an adjusted identifier generation step for generating an adjusted identifier so adjusted that an identifier transmitted from said personal user possessing said privacy protection identifier transmitter is identical to an identifier transmitted from a stranger in response to the identifier transmission request,

for causing such a different person identical identifier transmission phenomenon that identical identifiers are transmitted even in case of transmission from different persons.

3. (Original) A privacy protection method for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

a provision step of providing privacy protection identifier transmitters to a plurality of personal users, wherein

said privacy protection identifier transmitters include:

identifier generation means generating an identifier for disturbing a privacy invader; and

transmission means transmitting said identifier generated by said identifier generation

means when receiving an identifier transmission request,

said identifier generation means includes variable type identifier generation means capable of generating an identifier different from a precedently transmitted identifier,

said variable type identifier generation means is capable of generating a common identifier according with an identifier transmitted from said privacy protection identifier transmitter possessed by a person different from persons possessing said privacy protection identifier transmitters generating and transmitting identifiers with said variable type identifier generation means,

said plurality of privacy protection identifier transmitters are classified into a plurality of groups formed by privacy protection identifier transmitters transmitting said common identifier in a higher frequency as compared with an identifier of a stranger and having said common identifier varying with groups, and

said provision step specifies an area every said group and provides said privacy protection identifier transmitters belonging to said group to the personal users.

4. (Original): A privacy protection method for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

a provision step of providing a privacy protection identifier transmitter to a plurality of personal users, wherein

said privacy protection identifier transmitter includes:

identifier generation means generating an identifier for disturbing a privacy invader, and

transmission means transmitting said identifier generated by said identifier generation means when receiving an identifier transmission request,

said identifier generation means includes variable type identifier generation means capable of generating an identifier different from a precedently transmitted identifier, and

said variable type identifier generation means is capable of generating a common identifier according with an identifier transmitted from a privacy protection identifier transmitter possessed by a person different from a person possessing the privacy protection identifier transmitter generating the identifier with said variable type identifier generation means,

for simultaneously transmitting a previously set prescribed number of identifiers from a privacy protection transmitter provided to a certain personal user through said provision step, and

simultaneously transmitting a plurality of identifiers of a number larger than said prescribed number from a privacy protection identifier transmitter provided to another personal user different from said certain personal user through said provision step and generating another identifier, excluding said prescribed number of identifiers, included in said plurality of identifiers as said common identifier.

5. Original: A device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

variable type identifier generation means, which is means disturbing a privacy invader and generating an identifier for privacy protection, capable of generating an identifier different from a

precedently transmitted identifier; and

transmission means transmitting an identifier generated by said variable type identifier generation means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

6. (Original): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 5, wherein

said variable type identifier generation means generates said identifier in the range of identifiers transmitted by the respective ones of radio identifier transmitters affixed to the respective ones of already sold articles.

7. (Currently Amended) The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein

said transmission means transmits the same identifier as a precedently transmitted identifier when receiving an identifier transmission request again within a prescribed time from precedent identifier transmission.

8. (Currently Amended) The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, wherein

said variable type identifier generation means is capable of generating an identifier so adjusted that an identifier transmitted from a person possessing the privacy protection identifier transmitter generating the identifier with said variable type identifier generation means accords

with an identifier transmitted from a stranger, who is a person different from said person, possessing a privacy protection identifier transmitter.

9. (Original): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 8, further including communication means communicating with a privacy protection identifier transmitter of a stranger, wherein

said variable type identifier generation means includes identifier storage means storing an identifier,

said communication means includes:

transmission means communicating with said privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger and transmitting said identifier stored in said identifier storage means to said privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger,

receiving means receiving an identifier transmitted from said privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger, and

shared identifier storage means storing the identifier received by said receiving means in said identifier storage means and sharing the same identifier with said stranger, and

said variable type identifier generation means generates said identifier adjusted to accord with the identifier transmitted from the stranger by reading the shared identifier stored in said identifier storage means through said shared identifier storage means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

10. (Original): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 9, wherein

said communication means, whose communicable communication limit range for transmitting/receiving and exchanging mutual identifiers is set within 20 meters, communicates with the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger entering the area of said communicable communication limit range and exchanges mutual identifiers with each other.

11. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 9 [[or 10]], wherein

said communication means has inhibition means inhibiting performance of exchange of said identifiers with the privacy protection identifier transmitter of a stranger with whom communication has been already made for transmitting/receiving and exchanging said identifiers again within a prescribed period.

12. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to ~~any of claims 9 to 11~~ claim 9, wherein

said communication means has a telephone function and exchanges mutual identifiers with the privacy protection identifier transmitter of a stranger making communication by telephone, and

said variable type identifier generation means generates an identifier adjusted to accord with an identifier transmitted from said stranger by reading an exchanged identifier stored in said identifier storage means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

13. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to ~~any of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9, wherein

said communication means has an electronic mail function, transmits an identifier stored in said identifier storage means to the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger along with transmission of an electronic mail, and receives an identifier transmitted from the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger along with receiving of an electronic mail and stores the same in said identifier storage means, and

said variable type identifier generation means generates an identifier adjusted to accord with the identifier transmitted from said stranger by reading the identifier, transmitted from the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger, stored in said identifier storage means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

14. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to ~~any of claims 5 to 13~~ claim 5, wherein

said transmission means is capable of simultaneously transmitting a plurality of identifiers of a number larger than a prescribed number of identifiers simultaneously transmitted from the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger, and

said variable type identifier generation means generates an identifier, excluding said prescribed number of identifiers, included in said plurality of identifiers as said common identifier.

15. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to ~~any of claims 5 to 14~~ claim 5, further including:

identifier guard means bringing an proper identifier of a radio identifier transmitter affixed to an article purchased and thereby possessed by a personal user into an identifier guard state not readable by a stranger according to the intention of said personal user, and

read means rendering the identifier of said radio identifier transmitter in the identifier guard state readable according to the intention of the personal user.

16. (Original): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 15, wherein

said identifier guard means transmits proper identification information for person in question authentication, lets said radio identifier transmitter authenticate the same and switches to an identifier transmission stop state transmitting no identifier unless the person in question is confirmable, and

said read means brings an identifier into a transmittable state after transmitting said proper identification information and making said radio identifier transmitter perform the person in question authentication.

17. (Original): A privacy protection method for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

a registration processing step of performing processing of registering information allowing

specification of correspondence between a pseudonym created for acting as an anonymous user by giving the pseudonym in order to protect the privacy of a personal user and said personal user in a prescribed institution having the duty of confidentiality;

an electronic certificate issuing step of issuing an electronic certificate for said anonymous user;

an address setting step for setting the address of said anonymous user to an address different from that of the personal user corresponding to said pseudonym;

a user registration step of registering as said anonymous user by registering information of said pseudonym when performing user registration to a prescribed trader;

a transmission step of transmitting an identifier from a privacy protection identifier transmitter possessed by said personal user when receiving an identifier transmission request; and

pseudonym identifier storage means storing a pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader registering said pseudonym through said user registration step,

for reading said pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmitting the same in said transmission step when transmitting said identifier to said trader registering said pseudonym.

18. (Original): The privacy protection method according to claim 17, reading said pseudonym identifier from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmitting the same through said transmission step when receiving an operation of the personal user for transmitting said pseudonym identifier also when it is not the case of transmitting said identifier to said trader

registering said pseudonym.

19. (Original): A privacy protection system for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

registration processing means performing processing of registering information allowing specification of correspondence between a pseudonym created for acting as an anonymous user by giving the pseudonym in order to protect the privacy of a personal user and said personal user in a prescribed institution having the duty of confidentiality;

user registration means for registering as said anonymous user by registering information of said pseudonym when performing user registration to a prescribed trader;

transmission means transmitting an identifier from a privacy protection identifier transmitter possessed by said personal user when receiving an identifier transmission request; and

pseudonym identifier storage means storing a pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader registering said pseudonym through said user registration means, wherein

said transmission means reads said pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmits the same when transmitting said identifier to said trader registering said pseudonym.

20. (Original): A device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

pseudonym identifier storage means storing, when a personal user acts as an anonymous user by giving a pseudonym to a prescribed trader, a pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader; and

transmission means, which is means transmitting an identifier when receiving an identifier transmission request, reading said pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmitting the same when transmitting said identifier to said trader.

21. (Original): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 20, wherein

said transmission means reads said pseudonym identifier from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmits the same when receiving an operation of the personal user for transmitting said pseudonym identifier also when it is not the case where the personal user transmits said identifier to said trader to which the pseudonym is given.

22. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to claim 20 [[or 21]], wherein

said prescribed trader is a store selling articles,

said pseudonym identifier storage means stores a pseudonym identifier corresponding to said store registered as an anonymous user in user registration following issuance of a point card in said store, and

said transmission means reads said pseudonym identifier from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmits the same when receiving an identifier transmission request for reading, at a time of performing automatic settlement for paying for the price of an article inferred through an proper identifier transmitted from a radio identifier transmitter affixed to said article purchased in said store, said proper identifier of said radio identifier transmitter.

23. (Currently Amended): The device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection according to ~~any of claims 20 to 22~~ claim 20, wherein

said pseudonym identifier storage means stores different pseudonym identifiers in correspondence to a plurality of said traders respectively, and

said transmission means selects, in response to the one to which the pseudonym is given by the personal user among said plurality of traders, said pseudonym identifier corresponding to said trader to which the pseudonym is given from said pseudonym identifier storage means and transmits the same.

24. (Original): A program for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier and on the basis of said proper identifier,

for making a computer provided on a privacy protection identifier transmitter function as:
variable type identifier generation means, which is means generating a privacy protection identifier for disturbing a privacy invader, capable of generating an identifier different from a precedently transmitted identifier; and

transmission means transmitting the identifier generated by said variable type identifier generation means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

25. (Original): The program according to claim 24, wherein
said variable type identifier generation means generates said identifier in the range of identifiers transmitted from the respective ones of radio identifier transmitters affixed to already sold articles respectively.

26. (Currently Amended): The program according to claim 24 [[or 25]], wherein
said transmission means transmits the same identifier as a precedently transmitted identifier when receiving an identifier transmission request again within a prescribed time from precedent identifier transmission.

27. (Currently Amended): The program according to ~~any of claims 24 to 26~~ claim 24,
wherein

said variable type identifier generation means is capable of generating an identifier so adjusted that an identifier transmitted from a person possessing the privacy protection identifier transmitter generating an identifier with said variable type identifier generation means accords with an identifier transmitted from a stranger, who is a person different from said person, possessing a privacy protection identifier transmitter.

28. (Original): The program according to claim 27, wherein
said variable type identifier generation means includes identifier storage means storing an
identifier,

for communicating with said privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger and
making said privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger transmit said identifier stored
in said identifier storage means while receiving the identifier transmitted from said privacy
protection identifier transmitter of the stranger and making said identifier storage means store the
same for sharing the same identifier as said stranger, and

said variable type identifier generation means generates an identifier adjusted to accord
with said identifier transmitted from the stranger by reading said shared identifier stored in said
identifier storage means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

29. (Currently Amended): The program according to claim 27 [[or 28]], making the
computer function as inhibition means inhibiting re-performance of exchange of said identifier
with a privacy protection identifier transmitter of a stranger with whom communication has been
already made for transmitting/receiving and exchanging said identifier within a prescribed period.

30. (Currently Amended): The program according to ~~any of claims 27 to 29~~ claim 27,
exchanging mutual identifiers with a privacy protection identifier transmitter of a stranger making
communication by telephone, wherein

said variable type identifier generation means generates an identifier adjusted to accord

with an identifier transmitted from said stranger by reading an exchanged identifier stored in said identifier storage means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

31. (Currently Amended): The program according to ~~any of claims 27 to 30~~ claim 27, transmitting the identifier stored in said identifier storage means to a privacy protection identifier transmitter of a stranger along with transmission of an electronic mail while receiving an identifier transmitted from the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger along with receiving of an electronic mail and making said identifier storage means store the same, wherein

said variable type identifier generation means generates an identifier adjusted to accord with said identifier transmitted from the stranger by reading the identifier transmitted from the privacy protection identifier of the stranger stored in said identifier storage means when receiving an identifier transmission request.

32. (Currently Amended): The program according to ~~any of claims 24 to 31~~ claim 24, wherein

said transmission means is capable of simultaneously transmitting a plurality of identifiers of a number larger than a prescribed number of identifiers simultaneously transmitted from the privacy protection identifier transmitter of the stranger, and

said variable type identifier generation means generates another identifier, excluding said prescribed number of identifiers, included in said plurality of identifiers as said identifier adjusted to accord with said identifier transmitted from the stranger.

33. (Currently Amended): The program according to ~~any of claims 24 to 32~~ claim 24, further including a program making the computer function as:

identifier guard means bringing an proper identifier of a radio identifier transmitter affixed to an article purchased and thereby possessed by a personal user into an identifier guard state not readable by a stranger according to the intension of said personal user; and

read means rendering the identifier of said radio identifier transmitter in the identifier guard state readable according to the intention of the personal user.

34. (Original): The program according to claim 33, wherein
said identifier guard means transmits proper identification information for person in question authentication, lets said radio identifier transmitter authenticate the same and switches to an identifier transmission stop state transmitting no identifier unless the person in question is confirmable, and

said read means brings an identifier into a transmittable state after transmitting said proper identification information and making said radio identifier transmitter perform the person in question authentication.

35. (Original): A monitoring system monitoring leakage of private information, including:

partner specifying mail address generation processing means, which is means generating an

proper mail address to be used for a specific mail partner for exchanging electronic mails, performing processing for generating a partner specifying mail address allowing inference of information specifying said mail partner; and

monitor means inferring, when the mail address of a sendee of an electronic mail transmitted from a sender is said partner specifying mail address generated by said partner specifying mail address generation processing means, information specifying said mail partner corresponding to said partner specifying mail address and monitoring whether or not said inferred information specifying the mail partner and information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other.

36. (Original): The monitoring system according to claim 35, wherein said partner specifying mail address generation processing means performs processing for generating said partner specifying mail address by encrypting data including mail partner specifying information for specifying said mail partner, and

said monitor means monitors whether or not said mail partner specifying information and the information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other by decoding said partner specifying mail address and extracting said mail partner specifying information.

37. (Original): The monitoring system according to claim 36, wherein said partner specifying mail address generation processing means performs processing of generating said partner specifying mail address by encrypting data specifying the mail address of

the person in question intending to exchange electronic mails with said mail partner and data specifying the mail address of said mail partner, and

said monitor means performs processing of specifying the mail address of said mail partner by decoding said partner specifying mail address and monitoring whether or not said mail address and the mail address of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other for storing said electronic mail in a mail box corresponding to said mail address of the person in question specified by decoding said partner specifying mail address when the mail addresses accord with each other as a result of monitoring.

38. (Original): A monitoring system for monitoring and preventing a spam, including:
partner specifying mail address generation processing means, which is means generating an proper mail address to be used for a specific mail partner for exchanging electronic mails, performing processing for generating a partner specifying mail address allowing inference of information specifying said mail partner; and

monitor means inferring, when the mail address of a sendee of an electronic mail transmitted from a sender is said partner specifying mail address generated by said partner specifying mail address generation processing means, information specifying said mail partner corresponding to said partner specifying mail address and monitoring whether or not said inferred information specifying the mail partner and information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other.

39. (Original): The monitoring system according to claim 38, wherein
said partner specifying mail address generation processing means performs processing for
generating said partner specifying mail address by encrypting data including mail partner
specifying information for specifying said mail partner, and
said monitor means monitors whether or not said mail partner specifying information and
the information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other by decoding said
partner specifying mail address and extracting said mail partner specifying information.

40. (Original): The monitoring system according to claim 39, wherein
said partner specifying mail address generation processing means performs processing of
generating said partner specifying mail address by encrypting data specifying the mail address of
the person in question intending to exchange electronic mails with said mail partner and data
specifying the mail address of said mail partner, and
said monitor means performs processing of specifying the mail address of said mail partner
by decoding said partner specifying mail address and monitoring whether or not said mail address
and the mail address of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other for storing said
electronic mail in a mail box corresponding to said mail address of the person in question specified
by decoding said partner specifying mail address when the mail addresses accord with each other
as a result of monitoring.

41. (Currently Amended): The monitoring system according to ~~any of claims 38 to 40~~
claim 38, further including prevention means preventing transmission of said electronic mail when
said inferred mail partner specifying information and the information of the sender of said
electronic mail do not accord with each other as a result of monitoring by said monitor means.

42. (Original): A privacy protection method for monitoring an invasion of privacy
performed by reading an proper identifier related to a personal user and on the basis of said proper
identifier, including:

an identifier guard step of bringing an proper identifier of a radio identifier transmitter
affixed to an article purchased and thereby possessed by the personal user into an identifier guard
state not readable by a stranger according to the intension of said personal user;

a mail address notification processing step of performing, when said personal user notifies
his/her mail address to a prescribed trader as a customer or a user, processing of generating a
notification mail address, which is a new notification mail address for said trader, allowing
inference of information specifying said trader and notifying the same to said trader;

a notified trader identifier generation step of generating a notified trader identifier
corresponding to the notified trader to which said notification mail address is notified through said
mail address notification processing step;

a transmission step of transmitting said notified trader identifier, identical every time,
generated through said notified trader identifier generation step when transmitting an identifier to
said notified trader in response to an identifier transmission request while transmitting said notified

trader identifier when receiving an operation of the personal user for transmitting said notified trader identifier also in a case of transmitting an identifier to a person other than said notified trader;

an electronic mail transmission step for transmitting an electronic mail transmitted from a sender to a sendee according to a specified mail address; and

a monitoring step of inferring information specifying said notified trader corresponding to said notification mail address when the mail address of the sendee of the electronic mail transmitted through said electronic mail transmission step is said notification mail address notified through said mail address notification processing step for monitoring whether or not said inferred information specifying the notified trader and the information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other.

43. (Original): A privacy protection system for monitoring an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier related to a personal user and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

mail address notification processing means performing, when said personal user notifies his/her mail address to a prescribed trader as a customer or a user, processing of generating a notification mail address, which is a new notification mail address for said trader, allowing inference of information specifying said trader and notifying the same to said trader;

notified trader identifier generation means generating a notified trader identifier corresponding to the notified trader to which said notification mail address is notified through said

mail address notification processing means;

transmission means transmitting said notified trader identifier, identical every time, generated by said notified trader identifier generation means when transmitting an identifier to said notified trader in response to an identifier transmission request while transmitting said notified trader identifier when receiving an operation of the personal user for transmitting said notified trader identifier also in a case of transmitting an identifier to a person other than said notified trader; and

monitor means inferring information specifying said notified trader corresponding to said notification mail address when the mail address of a sendee of an electronic mail transmitted from a sender is said notification mail address notified through said mail address notification processing means for monitoring whether or not said inferred information specifying the notified trader and the information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other.

44. (Original): The privacy protection system according to claim 43, wherein said mail address notification processing means includes encryption generation means generating said notification mail address by encrypting data including notified trader specifying information for specifying a notified trader to which the mail address is notified, and

said monitor means includes:

decoding means decoding the notification mail address of the electronic mail transmitted from the sender, and

determination means determining whether or not said notified trader specifying

information included in data decoded by said decoding means and information of the sender of said electronic mail accord with each other.

45. (Currently Amended): The privacy protection system according to claim 43 [[or 44]], wherein

said notified trader is a store selling articles,

said mail address notification processing means performs processing of generating a notification mail address corresponding to said store in user registration following issuance of a point card in said store and notifying the same, and

said transmission means transmits said notified trader identifier corresponding to said store at a time of performing automatic settlement according to a price of an article inferred through an proper identifier transmitted from a radio identifier transmitter affixed to said article purchased in said store when receiving an identifier transmission request for reading said proper identifier of said radio identifier transmitter.

46. (Original): A device for transmitting an identifier for privacy protection for preventing an invasion of privacy performed by reading an proper identifier related to a personal user and on the basis of said proper identifier, including:

notified trader identifier generation means generating a notified trader identifier corresponding to a notified trader, for which prescribed trader said personal user generates a new notification mail address as a customer or a user for notifying the same to said trader; and

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transmission means transmitting said notified trader identifier, identical every time,
generated by said notified trader identifier generation means when transmitting an identifier to said
notified trader in response to an identifier transmission request while transmitting said notified
trader identifier when receiving an operation of the personal user for transmitting said notified
trader identifier also in a case of transmitting an identifier to a person other than said notified
trader.